## China Seen A-Threat by **Early 1970s**

## Joint Hill Group Notes U.S. Lacks Antimissile Setup

By Chalmers M. Roberts Washington Post Staff Writer

An intercontinental nuclear missile attack "could possibly be launched" by China against the United States "by the early 1970s," the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy | declared yesterday.

In a short and low-key renuclear port on China's nuclear weaponry, the prestigious committee of Senate and House members noted that "at present we do not have an effective antiballistic-missile system which could repel such a suicidal (for the Chinese) but nevertheless possible strike."

In effect, the Joint Committee advanced the date by which the Chinese will become a missile power. Last January and February, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara told Congress the Chinese were not expected to have a "significant number" of ocean-spanning ICBMs until the mid-

The new analysis is likely to defense system designed to meet such a Chinese threat.

ment expects such pressure was made evident yesterday when a Pentagon spokesman challenged the idea that the Committee had advanced the date of a Chinese nuclear threat to the United States. He said that the Committee's time estimates and those of McNamara are "generally consistent" and that any missile defense system can never substitute for what McNamara terms the "assured destruction capability" of American missiles aimed at China.

The Joint Committee report

said in part:

believe that "We Chinese will continue to place

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lieve they will be able to develop a thermonuclear warhead in the ICBM weight class with a yield in the megaton range ployment in the early 1970s.

"On the basis of our present gram to date." knowledge, we believe that the Chinese probably will achieve the Committee, consists of "a an operational ICBM capabil- few ity before 1972. Conceivably, it planes and "a handful" of could be ready as early as 1970-71.

although it is known to agree, tal bombers. that the Chinese may conduct the Pacific.

The report also expressed gram." belief that China has already developed an intermediate "about 1970," however, China especially in Southeast Asia.

clear weapons development megaton warhead for its ton size yield in any of its With continued testing, we be MRBMs that could reach many tests.

The Committee report by about 1970. We believe that added that "the internal strife the Chinese can have an in Red China appears to have ICBM system ready for de- had little, if any, effect on their nuclear weapons pro-

China's bomber force, said hundred" short-range "somewhat longer range bombers." The Committee said The Committee did not men- it had no knowledge of any tion McNamara's prediction, plans for heavy intercontinen-

As to submarines, the report either a space shot or an expressed belief that the for Strategic Studies in Lon-ICBM test this year. One Com-Chinese are interested in demittee source said it might be veloping craft "with suitable over the Himalayas into the relatively long-range missiles" Indian Ocean or directly into but "we have not determined tween 1800 and 2000 miles dethe exact nature of the pro-

In sum, China was credited with "a fledgling, but effect submarines with a total of 48 range missile but said there tive, nuclear weapons capabili-nuclear missiles by 1974, one was no evidence of deploy-ment of such MRBMs. By clear blackmail in Asia and 1970.

rent such a Chinese threat.

1972, according to the report, to test "a true thermonuclear is due to be operational in China could probably have a device" or to achieve a mega1968.

The report said all five 1966 French tests were aimed at thermonuclear development and that three tests in June and July this year were devices suspended by balloons over the Mururoa Lagoon in the Pacific. French yields in test have been as high as 250 kilotons, higher than that of the Chinese fission devices. The French were also credited with having a stockpile of at least one nuclear weapon, in the range of 60 to 70 kilotons, for each of about 60 Mirage IV aircraft.

Coincidentally, the Institute for Strategic Studies in Lonby 1970 France will have 25 to 30 missiles with a range beployed in underground silos in the wine district of Provence. France will also have three

The British have no missile add pressure on the Administration to begin deployment of thermonuclear warheads yield. The report also said that the program other that the contration to begin deployment of thermonuclear warheads yield. Chinese are well ahead of the struction of four Polaris subthe so-called "thin" antimissile ing a few hundred kilotrons of French in thermonuclear weap-defense system designed to explosive power, and by about on design since France has yet siles each, by 1969-70. The first

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